

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter (where underlining " _ " denotes additions and strikethrough "-" denotes deletions).

Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
receiving a first frame from a station in a local area network, wherein said
first frame uses a first address as ~~the~~ a medium access control
address for said station in said local area network;
assigning an association identifier to said station;
transmitting a second frame to said station via said local area network,
wherein said second frame comprises said association identifier
and uses said first address as the medium access control address
for said station in said local area network; and
receiving a third frame from said station via said local area network,
wherein said third frame uses a second address, rather than said
first address, as the medium access control address for said station
in said local area network;
wherein said second address is a combination of (1) a portion of said first
address and (2) at least a portion of said association identifier.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said association identifier is
unique among the stations that are currently active in said local area network.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising transmitting a fourth frame to said station via said local area network, wherein said fourth frame uses said second address as the medium access control address for said station in said local area network.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said association identifier is 11 bits in length.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said first address is 48 bits in length.

6. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
- transmitting a first frame from a station in a local area network, wherein
- said first frame uses a first address as the a medium access control address for said station in said local area network;
- receiving a second frame ~~from~~ at said station via said local area network,
- wherein said second frame comprises an association identifier and uses said first address as the medium control access address for said station in said local area network;
- transmitting a third frame from said station via said local area network,
- wherein said third frame uses a second address, rather than said first address, as the medium access control address for said station in said local area network;
- wherein said second address is a combination of (1) a portion of said first address and (2) at least a portion of said association identifier.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said association identifier is unique among the stations that are currently active in said local area network.
8. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising receiving a fourth frame at said station via said local area network, wherein said fourth frame uses said second address as the medium access control address for said station in said local area network.

9. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said association identifier is 11 bits in length.
10. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said first address is 48 bits in length.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
- (1) a receiver for:
 - (i) receiving a first frame from a station in a local area network, wherein said first frame uses a first address as the a medium access control address for said station in said local area network, and
 - (ii) receiving a third frame from said station via said local area network, wherein said third frame uses a second address, rather than said first address, as the medium access control address for said station in said local area network;
 - (2) a processor for assigning an association identifier to said station;
and
 - (3) a transmitter for:
 - (i) —transmitting a second frame to said station via said local area network, wherein said second frame comprises said association identifier and uses said first address as the medium access control address for said station in said local area network;
- wherein said second address is a combination of (1) a portion of said first address and (2) at least a portion of said association identifier.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said association identifier is unique among the stations that are currently active in said local area network.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said transmitter is also for (ii) transmitting a fourth frame to said station via said local area network, wherein said fourth frame uses said second address as the medium access control address for said station in said local area network.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said association identifier is 14 bits in length.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said first address is 48 bits in length.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

(1) a transmitter for:

- (i) transmitting a first frame from ~~a station~~ the apparatus in a local area network, wherein said first frame uses a first address as ~~the a~~ medium access control address for said ~~station~~ apparatus in said local area network, and
- (ii) transmitting a third frame from said ~~station~~ apparatus via said local area network, wherein said third frame uses a second address, rather than said first address, as the medium access control address for said ~~station~~ apparatus in said local area network; and

(2) a receiver for:

- (i) ~~receiving~~ a second frame ~~from~~ at said ~~station~~ via said local area network, wherein said second frame comprises an association identifier and uses said first address as the medium control access address for said ~~station~~ apparatus in said local area network;

wherein said second address is a combination of (1) a portion of said first address and (2) at least a portion of said association identifier.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said association identifier is unique among the stations that are currently active in said local area network.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said receiver is further for (ii) receiving a fourth frame at said ~~station~~ apparatus via said local area network, wherein said fourth frame uses said second address as the medium access control address for said ~~station~~ apparatus in said local area network.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said association identifier is 11 bits in length.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said first address is 48 bits in length.